

**REMARKS:**

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-14 were rejected. Claims 1 and 9-14 have been amended for clarification. New claim 15 has been added. Thus, claims 1-15 are pending and under consideration. No new matter has been added. The rejections are traversed below.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e):**

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,918,228('228).

'228 discusses a method for enabling a web server to impersonate a client machine of a distributed file system (DFS) to obtain access to documents contained therein.

The present invention is directed to a gateway system and method of relaying a request on behalf of a user for a service provided by another system using a uniform resource locator (URL), link information and authentication information of the requested service.

The Examiner compares the '228 system for enabling a web server to seek authentication for a client to access documents in a DFS with the present invention. In '228, a client machine is connected to a web server to access documents on a DFS implemented in a networked environment of a distributed computing environment (DCE) (see, column 3, lines 34-37 and column 4, lines 49-61 of '228). When the client requests a document in the DFS, the web server invokes a server path check to determine whether the user has appropriate credentials (returning an error when the user does not) and uses the user's credentials to retrieve documents stored in the DFS when the user has appropriate credentials (see, column 5, lines 44-57 of '228). This means the '228 web server is limited to acting for the client machine in seeking authentication by the distributed computing environment security service when the client machine does not possess the distributed computing function.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to a gateway system and method that relays information between world wide web systems on the Internet. As recited in each of the independent claims 1 and 9, the present invention includes accessing another system "via an Internet using a URL specifying said another system, using link information and authentication information corresponding to the requested service". This enables the present invention to provide services of other systems to a user without the need for separate authentication to access the other systems. The '228 system does not teach or suggest, accessing a system "via an Internet using a URL specifying said another system".

As also recited in each of the independent claims 1 and 9, the present invention incorporates "...link information concerning the gateway system into link information included in returned data corresponding to the request..". The '228 system discusses saving the DCE credentials after the initial user login and creating a link to the credentials obtained as a result of the original login authentication for reusing the same (see, column 6, lines 26-29 and column 7, lines 1-14 of '228). This means that the '228 system does not teach or suggest "link information... included in returned data" as recited in claims 1 and 9, instead the '228 system is limited to accessing documents in the DFS.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over '228.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1 and 9 are patentably distinguishable over '228. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 4, the service request unit of the present invention includes "a table in which an option ID serving as a billing unit is entered in correspondence to the system providing the service, and transmits the option ID in making the request". The '228 method does not teach or suggest making a request to another system "via the Internet using a URL specifying said another system" (claim 1 upon which claim 4 depends) where "a table in which an option ID serving as a billing unit is entered in correspondence to the system providing the service, and... the option ID in making the request" is transmitted (claim 4).

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**NEW CLAIM:**

New claim 15 has been added to emphasize that the present invention includes, "requesting for the service provided by said another system on behalf of an authenticated user upon receiving the user's request including a URL specifying said another system" and "accessing said another system using the URL, link information and authentication information corresponding to the requested service and incorporating the link information in data returned to the user". This enables users to receive services provided by other systems with a single authentication.

New claim 15 is distinguishably patentable over the '228 system.

**CONCLUSION:**

Accordingly, claims 1 and 9-14 have been amended for clarification. New claim 15 has been added. Thus, claims 1-15 are pending for which reconsideration is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the

application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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